

137,200 engineers needed by 2010

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PEKAN, Sat. — Malaysia will need 137,200 engineers and 331,700 assistant engineers by 2010, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said today.

He said these included those in the fields of chemical, mechanical, electrical, electronic, and other high-technology areas like fonic and nano-technology.

Musa said the Government, last year, decided to establish Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kuktem) in Pahang, a technical university college that would offer hands-on technical and technology-related courses.

It aims to produce highly-skilled manpower in fields related to the chemical, petrochemical, manufacturing, and processing industries.

"Kuktem will focus on teaching and training," he said at the ceremony to lay the foundation stone of the university's permanent campus site in Kuala Pahang, near here.

The ceremony was conducted by Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Present were the Tengku Mahkota of Pahang, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Defence Minister and MP for Pekan, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, and Kuktem Rector Prof Abu Azam Md Yassin.

The RM800-million campus, on 817ha site and due for completion in four years, will be able to accommodate about 10,000 students.

Musa said Kuktem's courses differed from others as they were more focused on application and skills.

The curriculum is based on three components — technical knowledge, technical skills and soft skills.

Kuktem is currently operating from a temporary campus in Bandar



ROYAL VISIT: The Sultan of Pahang taking a look at the layout plan of Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kuktem). With him are the the Tengku Mahkota and Najib (second from left). — Picture by Nordin Abdullah

Indera Mahkota in Kuantan, offering three diploma and four degree programmes.

Two more faculties will open in May next year with four new pro-

grammes. Operations will move to its second temporary campus in MEC City, Gambang, as student enrolment is expected to reach over 1,000 by then.